

Wednesday, October 18, 1989 • The Wasatch Wave • 7A



Construction has begun on the \$175,000 Wasatch County Emergency Services building, at First West and First South in Heber City. Although only a basic steel structure is being built in this first phase, brick will be added to the outside, and offices, meeting rooms, and other amenities will be added as money becomes available, possibly next year. About \$120,000 of the construction money is being provided by a Community Development Block Grant.

*Emergency Services Building
100 West 100 So = NE Corner*



County Emergency Operations Plan: Local Government Officials' Roles During a Disaster

(Part Three of a Series)

26 Oct 1988

The Wasatch County Emergency Operations Plan, a joint effort of County and state officials and employees, clearly designates the responsibilities of government organizations in the case of a disaster.

Officials of the affected local jurisdiction, along with the Wasatch County Emergency Services Director, Kent Berg, are directed to conduct an immediate evaluation of any emergency situation to determine:

- Public Needs — Power, communications, transportation, security, and debris clearance.
- Water Supply — Drinking, sanitation and sewers, firefighting.
- Victim Needs — Rescue and recovery, evacuation, food, shelter, clothing and medical victim identification.

That information would then be passed on to the State Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management.

If local jurisdiction is capable of taking the necessary essential relief, local officials would assume overall direction and control of the operations. If not, the Wasatch County Commissioners would activate the plan and staff a local operations center to provide assistance and coordinate direction and control with the local jurisdiction. Wasatch County Departments and agencies shall be responsible for carrying out the responses described in the plan.

The local jurisdiction or County may also request help from the American Red Cross, Salvation

Army, and other volunteer organizations, as well as bordering counties.

If state or federal government assistance is required, the Governor may issue a "State of Emergency" declaration and direct that state assistance be provided. The procedures the County must follow, in order to get that declaration, are listed in the plan, along with the forms that must be relayed to the state.

Instructions and forms are also included for collecting, recording and maintaining all costs for emergency operations. Those records are necessary when the time comes to request disaster relief and reconstruction funds.

The senior available elected official of the affected local government(s) would determine if an evacuation is required. Government officials and employees are to provide:

- Evacuation routes with emergency signs, traffic control devices and barricades around unsafe areas;
- Emergency transportation;
- Temporary shelters;
- Food, particularly at the shelters;
- Emergency medical services;
- Coordination with voluntary organizations.

To prepare for an evacuation, then carry it out, if necessary, the County Commissioners are to:

- Appoint managers and coordinators to fill the positions in the emergency response organization;

- Direct agency heads and appointed emergency personnel in their responsibilities.

- Provide public information.
- Establish priorities for management and transportation of resources, like food, to shelter facilities.

The responsibilities of all the coordinators and managers during an evacuation are also listed.

The Heber City Chief of Police would be responsible for public safety and law enforcement if a disaster is confined within the city limits. If a disaster should extend beyond those limits, the County Sheriff would assume responsibility. Utah Highway Patrol officers would assist local law enforcement

agencies with traffic control and security. The employees of all three agencies, including Reserves and Search and Rescue volunteers, local firefighters, and state park law enforcement personnel are listed, as well as available equipment in each.

Rescue and recovery operations would be carried out by local rescue personnel, but state and federal government assistance would be available, if needed. People with handicaps, elderly, and others with special needs will be identified in order to properly accommodate them if a disaster should occur.

A Locator/Inquiry Center would be set up, where information about friends and relatives, could be obtained.



Your Newspaper People Serving People

Commission Discusses Need For Public Safety Building, Soon

The Wasatch County Commission says the County needs a new public safety building. They discussed a few ideas about what it should include and how it can be financed, during the Dec. 18 Commission meeting.

Allen Layton and Wesley Box, Layton Construction, reviewed their experience with planning and constructing many public safety buildings and offered to serve as consultants during preliminary planning of a Wasatch County facility, without charge.

This is not the first time the Commission has talked about the need for a new County building, with a jail, courtrooms, and offices. Layton and Box told the Commission that a new building could be financed through a lease-purchase agreement. They said many small communities build larger jails than they need, then lease the extra beds to state and federal prisoners, at \$45

a day per prisoner, which can be enough to make the payments, and even produce a profit.

Sheriff Edd Thacker suggested the new jail be built to house 24 to 48 prisoners, and contract out half of them.

On the other hand, Layton pointed out that if the County has to begin contracting with other jails to house its prisoners, because of overcrowding, it could become costly and the money would be wasted.

Since the State pays for use of the County courtroom facilities and County employees' time when they are working on state cases, the State might be willing to help fund the court facilities in the new building.

One reason the need for a new public safety building is becoming urgent is that the present eight-bed jail isn't even adequate for local needs and the ACLU is forcing

communities to close jails that do not comply with the laws governing them.

Sheriff Edd Thacker, has already reported problems because of overcrowding at the jail, including violence. He also says even when there are enough beds, the prisoners can't be separated as required by law, which that could result in lawsuits. He cited a recent situation in which a man who was ordered to serve weekends in jail was turned away because there was no room for him.

The Commissioners favor constructing the new building west of the courthouse, with a corridor to the existing County building. However, Chairman Moroni Besendorfer indicated that is not a final decision.

Box said public safety buildings can be built to blend with the architecture of the community, without having to look like official buildings or jailhouses. For instance, he said a new Storey County facility, in Virginia City, Nev., reflects the old mining town look of that city. He added that the payments on the building are \$5,200 a month, for 15 years, much less than they had been paying to house County prisoners in Reno.

Wasatch emergency vehicles in new home

By SONNI SCHWINN
Herald Correspondent

HEBER CITY — The Wasatch County fire engines, ambulances and other emergency equipment have been moved into their new home at 100 West and 100 South in Heber City.

The metal building was constructed mostly with Community Development Block Grant funds awarded during the past two years, and will be completed this year with a third grant.

Although there are bathrooms in the building it is, so far, only a large garage. But this year's grant will be enough to add a kitchen, offices, a meeting hall, landscaping, and brick on the south and west sides.

Commission Chairman Moroni Besendorfer said he is pleased that a small building on the same property has been taken over by search and rescue, putting all the county's emergency services equipment and personnel headquarters in one location.

The county commission still hopes the improvements on U.S. 189 through Provo Canyon will be com-

pleted all the way to U.S. 40 in Heber City much sooner than the 10 years the Utah Department of Transportation is projecting.

He also said the Snake Creek area in Wasatch County is still in the running for the Olympics luge run, along with Bear Canyon, near the Wasatch-Summit County line, either of which would be an advantage to Wasatch County.

"What we want to see is a loop through Salt Lake, Provo, Heber, and back to Salt Lake," he said.

But the commissioners don't want Heber City bypassed by U.S. 40, which appears to be UDOT's ultimate plan.

Coleman said he has recommended that UDOT complete the four lanes of U.S. 40 from River Road into the city. He said UDOT hasn't commented on the idea and he didn't think that's what UDOT officials want. He added that traffic counts don't yet indicate that Heber City should be bypassed. In fact, he said he wasn't sure it would ever be necessary, but that it can be considered whenever the time comes.